



## NORTHEAST ENERGY EFFICIENCY COUNCIL

A business association of the energy efficiency industry

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Commerce Committee  
Public Hearing  
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### HB 6650- An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency Programs

The Northeast Energy Efficiency Council- Connecticut Chapter (NEEC-CT) is a business association of the energy efficiency industry. The energy efficiency industry is a large and growing part of Connecticut's economy. NEEC-CT members include the wide variety of firms that provide energy efficiency products and services, including manufacturers, energy service companies, engineering firms, electrical contractors, lighting and equipment suppliers, HVAC and insulation contractors, builders, architects, and many others.

NEEC-CT supports HB 6650-AAC Energy Efficiency Programs. Energy efficiency measures are documented and verified through independent evaluations and audits. There is a 4 to 1 return on energy efficiency investments. For every \$1 invested the return is more than \$4 in savings. These savings benefit everyone in Connecticut. Energy efficiency programs such as the Home Energy Solutions Program are successful. Everyone should be able to utilize the low cost audits. In 2012, 28,715 customers were served in the Home Energy Solutions program. 26,372 tons of CO2 emissions were reduced annually. This equates to annual savings of \$7.7 million. Oil customers need to continue to be part of these programs; however they soon will not be because they do not pay into the efficiency fund.

HB 6650 establishes an Oil Heat and Propane Energy Efficiency Fund. This bill is needed to establish a steady funding stream for those Connecticut residents that use fuel oil in their homes. As of this summer, these residents will lose their ability to access Connecticut's award winning efficiency programs. HB 6650 establishes a new excise tax on fuel and propane. The tax will be disbursed by the Energy Conservation & Load Management Fund for use in the Home Energy Solutions Program.

The energy efficiency savings that residents gain once they are part of the efficiency programs benefit everyone in Connecticut. Residential rate payers will have more money in their pockets, which may then be spent on other goods in Connecticut. With a larger commitment to energy efficiency, more can be done that will benefit all residents. With Massachusetts and Rhode Island continuing to increase their commitment to energy efficiency, Connecticut needs to do the same to keep our businesses competitive and in the state. The state's goal of weatherizing 80% of the homes by 2030 can hopefully be met with the changes that are found in HB 6650.

Energy efficiency is a vehicle to advance the efficient use of energy, reduce air pollution and promote economic and energy security here in Connecticut. Energy Efficiency is also a means for economic development. The energy efficiency business is a growing sector in Connecticut. With a steady stream of funding, companies will not have to worry that the funding of the projects will stop in the middle of the job. That scenario makes increasing a company's workforce a tough one. With a steady budget source, companies can hire more people and more residents in Connecticut will be served.

Energy efficiency is a clear winner for Connecticut's economy, environment and citizens. The Northeast Energy Efficiency Council- Connecticut Chapter supports HB 6650. Thank you for this opportunity.